

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, December 8th, 2010

ACRPC held its monthly Meeting at its offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on December 8th, 2010 with Thea Gaudette, the Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Andrew Manning
Ed Payne

Panton:

Bristol: Chris Lathrop

Ripton:

Salisbury:

Cornwall:

Shoreham:

Ferrisburgh:

Starksboro:

Goshen: Jeff Cathcart

Vergennes:

Leicester: James Maroney

Waltham:

Lincoln:

Weybridge:

Middlebury: Fred Dunnington

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Charlie Huizenga

New Haven:

Orwell: Andrea Ochs

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Otter Creek Natural Resources:

Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

Margaret Lowe

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Thea Gaudette

Vice-Chair: Harvey Smith

Secretary: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Treasurer: Jeremy Grip

At Large: Steve Revell

Andrew Manning

Bill Sayre

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee

Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm

EM/Senior Planner: Tim Bouton

Transportation/Senior Planner: Richard Kehne

Land Use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Regional Planner: Kevin Lehman

Thea Gaudette, Chair of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (“ACRPC”) opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Adam welcomed our guest for the evening, Representative Lanpher and Representative Nuovo. Thea noted that Senator Giard had also confirmed to come. Rather than start the Program immediately, Thea suggested that the Commission take up some routine business to give senator Giard time to arrive. She noted that the Commission would address the Minutes, the Treasurer’s Report and the Executive Board minutes. If the Senator had not arrived by that time, we would start the program.

Thea called the Business Meeting to order to address the agenda before the Commission.

- I. **Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2010** – Thea asked for a motion on the Minutes. **Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved the adoption of the minutes of November 12, 2010; Charlie Huizenga seconded the motion.** Andrew Manning commented that he had attended the meeting, but was not shown to be present. Ellen Kurrelmeyer noted that she was shown present, but was not. **With those corrections noted, the Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote with unanimous approval.**
- II. **Executive Board Minutes: November 29, 2010** - Thea explained that the Draft Executive Board Minutes are provide for information only, and asked if anyone had any questions. No one asked a question on the Executive Board minutes.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Adam reported on the Treasurer’s Report dated December 8, 2010. He reported that our cash balance is still strong. He noted that revenues exceeded expenses and offered to take any questions. Ed Payne asked why our postage expenses were close to last year’s entire expenditure, but we were only half way through the year. Adam responded that he did not know. Kevin Behm suggested that since we pre-purchase stamps in bulk to use throughout the year, that he did not expect that expense item to change for several months. **Andrea Ochs moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Fred Dunnington seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.**

PROGRAM: Thea once again welcomed Representative Betty Nuovo of Middlebury and Representative Diane Lanpher of Vergennes to speak before the commission. Representative Betty Nuovo spoke first. She noted that she has sat on the Natural Resources committee and hopes to stay there. She expects the committee to address issues like e-waste and perhaps permit reform. She also noted that the budget would be a huge issue this session. Lastly, Betty hopped to address some issues regarding the availability and quality of childcare.

Representative Diane Lanpher noted she hopes to stay on the House Transportation Committee. She noted that the budget issue and where the state finds \$112 Million dollars will be the biggest issue at the Statehouse this year. She noted however that the general fund shortfall will not come out of the Transportation Fund. Diane noted that last year, with the use of ARRA stimulus funds created a high water mark for the State Transportation budget

that she did not expect to see again for quite some time. She emphasized the need to continue to focus on roads and bridges in the Transportation Section of the budget. She expected that performance based contracting from the Challenges process would continue to move forward. She noted that the education budget would be under significant pressure.

Andrea Ochs stated that schools meeting targets should not be asked to cut further.

Ed Payne asked about new administration salaries. Betty replied she thought they would be about the same as the last administration.

Thea noted that the State needed to do a better job about providing people with answers concerning the benefits that they were entitled too. Betty noted that a lot of jobs had been cut at the state level and that it was impacting performance.

Diane noted one project of interest that she was concerned about in Addison County involved the condition of Route 22A. She will bring the issue to the TAC.

Thea and the Commission thanked the representatives for their time.

8:45 p.m. BUSINESS AGENDA:

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. **Act 250.** Ellen Kurrelmeyer noted there had been only one Act 250 application within the last month. CVPS has applied to extend power lines in Shoreham. She also noted that VTrans had sent plans to Repave Route 17 next summer. Adam also noted that Jon Kaplan, VTrans's Bike/ped Coordinator, who had spoken here last meeting, had also contacted Rick Kehne to tell Rick that he felt there was a good opportunity on the road to expand the shoulders for bicycles. Chris Lathrop, a delegate from Bristol and a traffic engineer on the project, noted that he did not believe that the slopes on the road allowed expanded shoulders. **Rick will follow-up with Chris and Jon to see what can be accomplished.**
- b. **Local Government.** Thea reported the committee had not met.
- c. **Natural Resources.** Kevin noted that the committee had finished a draft of the Natural Resources Section of the Addison County Plan and that it would present it to the full commission later in the evening.
- d. **TAC.** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC did not meet.
- e. **Energy.** Adam reported that the committee had met in November and would meet again on December 13, 2010. Adam noted the Committee discussed the Cross-Pollination Application and the commission's involvement in that application. The Committee also discussed ACRPC's relationship with ACoRN and programming, discussed the PACE program and discussed a proposed application for a methane digester by the Four Hills Farm.
- f. **Brownfields.** Adam reported that the Committee had met the day before on December 7, 2010. Adam Foreman, the project Manager for ATC on the Shade Roller Mill project in

Vergennes addressed the committee and discussed the results for that project with the committee. We still have funds left and are looking for projects. The Committee will meet again in January.

V. **Joint Partners Report:** Adam reported that he planned to attend the Economic Development Corporation's annual meeting tomorrow at noon and the Chamber's Monthly meeting the next Thursday.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition Project Highlights:** Adam presented staff's project highlights for the month. The report is attached as Exhibit A.

VII. **Old Business:**

1. Bi-State Park Proposal At the September meeting Adam handed out a Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the group interested in creating a bi-state park with New York at the Champlain Bridge. He asked people to review it and noted we would discuss it and vote on whether ACRPC should sign the Memorandum at the October meeting. Commissioners asked a number of questions which Adam could not answer and requested that he find answers and bring them to the commission. Adam reported that he spoken with a number of people on the Vermont side of the lake including Jeff Kauffman the Chair of the Addison Selectboard, Craig Whipple of Vermont Parks, the State lead on the project and Lorraine Franklin a local resident and organizer. He reported that all had supported the idea of working together to create a bi-state park. He also noted that between Jeff and Lorraine they had spoken with each of the farmers in the area. While several farmers still had concerns about the details, all supported the idea in general. Adam invited questions and asked if the Commission had sufficient information to vote on the resolution to support the project. **Andrea Ochs moved to sign the resolution supporting the planning for a bi-state park. Ed Payne seconded the motion.** Thea noted the planning commission should participate in this regional planning effort. Ellen noted we should also support the town of Addison. **Upon the call for a vote, the commission unanimously supported the resolution.**
2. Program Meeting Length. Thea noted that Charlie had commented on this at the last commission meeting and that the Executive Board had also discussed it and asked her to bring the issue up once again with the full commission. Thea asked how the Commission would like to take care of the issue. After a decision, Thea summarized the Commission's conclusions. She noted that programs would be limited to strictly one hour. Adam was to inform our guests of the time limit and note that it would be strictly enforced. The guest speaker could then decide how they wanted to answer questions, during the presentation or at the end. Thea also noted that the commission had agreed to start on time, to keep to the agenda and

to make sure that their questions were short, on point and well-organized before they spoke. Thea thanked the commission for their discussion.

3. Other- None.

VIII. New Business:

1. Approval of ACRPC FY 2011/2012 Municipal Dues: Thea noted that the Executive Board had discussed this issue and for a number of reasons, had chosen to recommend to the Commission that it keep municipal dues level for the coming fiscal year. Andrea Ochs moved to accept the Executive Board's recommendation and keep municipal dues at their current rates. Fred Dunnington seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the Commission unanimously approved the resolution to keep municipal dues at their current rates.
2. Draft natural Resources Section of the Plan. Andrea Ochs, the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, announced that the committee had completed its work on the Draft of the Natural Resources Section of the Addison County Regional Plan. She noted the Committee's hard work and applauded the work Kevin Behm had put into the plan as staff to the Committee. She then noted that the committee's work actually impacted three Sections of the plan. First the Committee completely re-wrote the Natural Resources section of the plan. Second, since the Utilities and Facilities Section of the plan contained Sections on Historic and Cultural Resources, the Committee amended that portion of the plan to also include an Archeological Resources. Lastly, they amended the Regionally Significant Resources map to reflect the discussion in the Natural Resources Section of the Plan. Andrea handed out the new draft portions of the plan. She also noted that staff would be sending commissioners not in attendance copies of the draft for their review. Adam noted that the draft was now in the hands of the full commission for their comments. He requested that anyone with comments send them to Kevin Behm or Adam for compilation for the Committee. Thea noted that we hoped to go to a public hearing process probably in February, but noted that the Commission needed the opportunity to come together in support of a draft first.
3. Other. None.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

- X. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Andrea moved to adjourn the meeting; Andrew Manning seconded the motion and Thea adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director

Monthly Highlights for Commissioners – December 2010

Tim: Tim recently attended a two day training on emergency planning for special needs populations. The breadth of that category and the numbers of people who fall into it are surprising. An estimated 10 -15% of the population can be considered to have a disability. In Addison County this population includes almost 5,000 residents. Emergency planners need to expect an even higher percentage of people with Special needs to also need increased assistance during a disaster.

Kevin B: The DRAFT Natural Resources Section of the Addison County Regional Plan is out of committee and available for review to night.

Rick: Rick notes that Route 17 from 22A to Route 7 is due to be reclaimed and paved next summer. John Kaplan, our Bike Ped speaker last month, believes that that portion of Route 17 is a good candidate to have its shoulders expanded to 3 feet on each side as part of the reclamation process. Rick proposes to work with John and towns in the area to lobby VTrans to make those needed improvements to help increase the safety on the road for automobiles and bicycles and pedestrians using the route.

Claire: Claire is happy to announce that she is confident that all Addison County towns that applied should receive Municipal Planning Grant Funding.

Adam: Adam is pleased to announce that he anticipates ACRPC will reach a stipulation agreement with Cross – Pollination that will allow them to build their project, but also provides that the agricultural portion of the project will be significant and the agricultural lands will remain open, will provide for aesthetic mitigation of the facility on Route 7 and will provide funds significant enough to decommission the entire project at the end of its useful life.

Kevin L: Kevin Lehman notes he has been doing a lot of relationship building. He has reached out to town energy coordinators, other energy players like Laura Asermily and the ACORN board, town clerks, and potential allies in other parts of the state. A couple other highlights: VECAN conference was excellent (learning and networking), surveyed energy sections for all the town plans, moving forward on more municipal audits / implementation projects, planning website redesign. Kevin also did a great job of highlighting ACRPC's projects and activities in the Addy Indy this month.